

MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are thankful to Dr. T. P. S. Teotia,

Director, for encouragement and also to the Director, Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta for identifying the insects.

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October 11, 1977.

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24. DRAGONFLIES

A couple of years ago in the month of October, I had been to Maniadih, a village near Dhanbad in Bihar. There was a Jheel at one end of the village where I passed some delightful time watching birds and insects that disported in and around the Jheel.

I found a good number of dragonflies (*Aeshna*?) flying at high speed over the water of the jheel. There were at least six different species, some of them red and some yellow. The biggest of them was about four inches long with its body banded with black and

white. It flew with a whirr which was quite audible when near. While watching them I suddenly found one such dragonfly flying with a big butterfly, possibly a crow (Danaid), judging by its big black wings flapping under the hold of the dragonfly. As the dragonfly sailed to and fro in the air, suddenly the wings of the butterfly drifted down to the water. The murderous dragonfly must have nipped them off. I could discern the wingless body of the victim held near the Jaws of the flying dragon.

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July 22, 1977.

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